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Renata Hesse  
Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Division  
Dept. of Justice  
601 D Street NW / Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Renata:

My letter is intended to provide commentary to voice my support for the proposed settlement in U.S. vs. Microsoft. My firm supplies software and IT support systems to many clients throughout the nation. As one who works with clients to set up office systems, I am very concerned about the net effect to the entire IT industry if this settlement is not enacted and the case is allowed to continue a course to more severe penalties and regulations on the development of new technologies.

The settlement reached by the Justice Department and nine of the states involved in the case probably does not make anyone entirely happy, but it includes something for everyone. Best of all, however, is the settlement will bring children and schools in economically stressed areas of our nation into the world of the internet. It also addresses the issues which the court process decided were the essential issues to be resolved.

I have relocated from Massachusetts to South Dakota. Census records have shown consistently that South Dakota is home to the three poorest counties in the United States. They are located on Indian reservations. While the state has done much to wire public schools for the internet and to prepare children for the information age, I believe the settlement will provide a huge leap forward for Indian children through the gifts of software and hardware involved in the settlement.

I appreciate your attention to my letter. I hope this settlement is enacted so that the IT industry can move forward.

Sincerely,



Paul McSweeney